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Proposed Claim Amendments

1. (Currently Amended): A method of logging a computer system user out of affiliated servers comprising the steps of:

- providing a first cookie to a browser being used by the user, the first cookie for maintaining a list of affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following an authentication of the user;
- receiving a selection of a single logout link, wherein the logout link is contained on any of the sites that the user has visited on the affiliated servers;
- ~~generating a logout page for display on a browser being used by the user;~~
- ~~looking for responses from the affiliated servers;~~
- causing a request for data from the affiliated servers to be issued by the browser based on the list maintained with the first cookie, wherein the request further causes the affiliated servers to send an image to the browser which is indicative of successful logout;
- clearing second cookies from the browser by changing settings of the second cookies ~~the cookies' values to nothing and the cookies' expire time to a past date,~~ wherein the second cookies include data provided to the browser by the affiliated servers that the user visits following the authentication ~~and wherein a visited sites cookie maintains a list of all sites logged into by the user;~~ and
- logging the user out the affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following the authentication by selection of a the single logout link, ~~wherein a visited sites cookie maintains a list of all sites logged into by the user.~~

2. - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1 wherein selected the second cookies are expired by the browser to log the user out of the affiliated servers having the sites that the user visited.

7. (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium having a program stored thereon for causing a computer to implement a method of logging a computer system user out of affiliated server comprising ~~the steps of:~~
providing a first cookie to a browser being used by the user, the first cookie for maintaining a list of affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following an authentication of the user;

receiving a selection of a single logout link, wherein the logout link is contained on any of the sites that the user has visited on the affiliated servers;
~~generating a logout page for display on a browser being used by the user;~~
~~looking for responses from the affiliated servers;~~

causing a request for data from the affiliated servers to be issued by the browser based on the list maintained with the first cookie, wherein the request further causes the affiliated servers to send an image to the browser which is indicative of a successful logout;

clearing second cookies from the browser by changing settings of the second cookies, 'values to nothing and the cookies' expire time to a past date;

wherein the second cookies include data provided to the browser by the affiliated servers that the user visits following the authentication.

8. (Currently Amended): The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein the request further causes the affiliated servers to send cookie setting information for clearing the second cookies with the an image sent to the browser which is indicative of successful logout.

9. (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium of claim 7 wherein the user is logged out of the affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following the authentication are logged out of by selection of a the single logout link.

10. (Currently Amended): A method of logging a computer system user out of affiliated servers comprising:

receiving a request for a logout page, wherein a logout link to the logout page is contained on any site that the user has visited following an authentication of the user;

providing a link to an expire cookies page hosted on each affiliated server having a site visited by the user following the authentication that, when called, causes each affiliated server to clear cookies on a the user's browser by sending cookie setting information to the browser, the cookie setting information changing settings of the cookies to cause the browser to expire the cookies' values to nothing and the cookies' expire time to a past date; and to provide an image back to the browser upon succeeding in logging the user out,

wherein the cookies include data provided to the browsers from a corresponding one of the affiliated servers.

11. (Currently Amended): A system for logging a computer system user out of affiliated servers comprising:

means for receiving a request for a logout page, wherein a logout link to the logout page is contained on any site on the affiliated servers that the user has visited following an authentication of the user; and

a module that provides a link to an expire cookies page on each affiliated server that when called causes each affiliated server to clear cookies on a user's browser by sending cookie setting information to the browser, the cookie setting information changing settings of the cookies to cause the browser to expire the cookies' values to nothing and the cookies' expire time to a past date, and to ~~provide an image back to the browser upon succeeding in logging the user out,~~

wherein the cookies include data provided to ~~a~~ the browser from an associated one of the affiliated servers, and

wherein ~~further~~ the data contains at least one of:

a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server,

a profile for the user, and

a list of the affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following ~~a most recent logout from the authentication server,~~ wherein the sites include web servers.

12. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 11 ~~and further~~ comprising maintaining a list of affiliated servers that a user has ~~logged into~~ visited identified by site ID.

13. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 11 wherein a list of affiliated servers is used to identify the link to each expire cookies page on each affiliated server.

14. (Previously Presented): The system of claim 11 wherein the request for a logout page can be initiated via different affiliated server pages.

15. (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium having a program stored thereon for causing a computer to implement a method of logging a computer system user out of affiliated servers comprising:

receiving a request for a logout page, wherein the logout link is contained on any site on the affiliated servers that the user has visited following an authentication of the user;

providing a link to an expire cookies page on each affiliated server having a site visited by the user that, when called, causes each affiliated server to clear cookies on a user's browser by sending cookie setting information to the browser, the cookie setting information changing settings of the cookies to cause the browser to expire the cookies' values to nothing and the cookies' expire time to a past date, and to provide an image back to the browser upon succeeding in logging the user out,

wherein the cookies include data provided to the browser from a corresponding one of the affiliated servers.

16. - 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended): A method of logging out of affiliated domain servers on a network, the method performed by a browser comprising:

- requesting a logout page from an authentication server by selecting a logout link, wherein the logout link is on any site on the affiliated domain servers that a user of the browser has visited following an authentication of the user;
- receiving source image tags from the authentication server;
- issuing get image requests to URLs identified by the image tags;
- clearing cookies identified by responses to the get image requests, wherein the clearing is carried out by changing settings of the cookies in accordance with cookie setting information received from the affiliated domain servers having sites that the user has visited following the authentication ~~values to nothing and the cookies' expire time to a past date;~~ and
- rendering ~~an-images~~ received with the cookie setting information in responses from the affiliated domain servers; for inclusion in a logout page displayed by the browser,
- wherein the cookies include data provided to ~~a~~ the browser from the authentication server.

19. (Previously presented): The method of claim 18 wherein the image comprises a checkmark image.

20. (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein the image tag ensures that the image will not be retrieved from cache.

21. (Original): The method of claim 18 wherein the image tag includes a query.

22. (Previously presented): The method of claim 18 wherein the affiliated domain servers logged into are identified in a visited sites data structure.

23. (Original): The method of claim 22 wherein the data structure comprises a cookie.

24. (Currently Amended): A method of logging a computer system user out of affiliated servers comprising:

receiving a request for a logout page, wherein a logout link for the logout page is on any site that the user has visited following an authentication of the user;

providing a link to an expire cookies page on each affiliated server in the form of an image source tag that, when called, causes each affiliated server having a site that the user has visited following the authentication to clear

cookies on ~~both the server and the user's browser by sending cookie setting information with an image sent to the browser, the cookie setting information changing settings of the cookies to cause the browser to expire the cookies' values to nothing and the cookies' expire time to a past date, and to provide an image back to the browser upon succeeding in logging out the user,~~

wherein the cookies include data provided to the browser from an authentication server.

25. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 24 wherein a data structure of a visited sites is maintained identifying the ~~multiple affiliated servers~~ that are logged into.

26. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 24 ~~wherein the data structure is a visited sites cookie provided to the browser by the authentication server the request is initiated by the selection of a logout link.~~

27. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 24 wherein the logout link is provided on one or more of ~~the multiple servers logged into through the affiliated servers, an one of the affiliated servers, and an the authentication server.~~

28. (Original): The method of claim 24 wherein the cookies comprise user personal information.

29. - 30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended): A method of generating a logout page for display on a browser used to log a user out of affiliated servers, the method comprising:

obtaining a visited sites data file which identifies each affiliated server ~~logged into~~ having a site visited following an authentication of the user;

generating a plurality of image tags based on the visited sites data file, each image tag corresponding to one of the affiliated servers;

providing a URL in each image tag that causes an affiliated server associated with the image tag to clear cookies by sending cookie setting information for changing settings of the cookies to cause the cookies to be deleted by the browser, the cookie setting information being sent with images sent to the browser in response to receipt of the image tags by the corresponding affiliated servers' ~~values to nothing and the cookies' expire time to a past date,~~

wherein the cookies include data provided to a ~~the~~ browser from an associated one of the affiliated servers, and

generating the logout page by including the images received by the browser in the logout page

~~wherein further the data contains at least one of:~~

~~—— a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server,~~

~~—— a profile for the user, and~~

~~— a list of sites visited by the user following a most recent logout from the authentication server, wherein the sites include web servers.~~

32. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 31 wherein each image tag contains a query string parameter causing the browser to fetch an image from the associated affiliated server with the image tag with a separate transaction.

33. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the data contains at least one of:

a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server,
and
a profile for the user.

34. (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the data contains at least one of:

a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server,
and
a profile for the user
, and
~~a list of sites visited by the user following a most recent logout from the authentication server, wherein the sites include web servers.~~

35. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 10, wherein the data contains at least one of:

a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server,
a profile for the user, and

a list of sites visited by the user following ~~a most recent logout from the authentication server~~, wherein the sites include web servers.

36. (Currently Amended): The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the data contains at least one of:

a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server,
a profile for the user, and

a list of sites visited by the user following ~~a most recent logout from the authentication server~~, wherein the sites include web servers.

37. - 38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 18, wherein the data contains at least one of:

a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server,
a profile for the user, and

a list of sites visited by the user following ~~a most recent logout from the authentication server~~, wherein the sites include web servers.

40. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 24, wherein the data contains at least one of:

a date and time that the user is authenticated by an authentication server,
a profile for the user, and

a list of sites visited by the user following a most recent logout from the authentication server, wherein the sites include web servers.

41. (New): The method according to claim 1, further including steps of:

hosting by each affiliated server a URL used for retiring cookies during logging out of the user;

directing the request for data issued by the browser to the URL for retiring cookies for each affiliated server having a site that the user has visited following the authentication; and

sending, by the affiliated servers receiving the request, the image and a set cookie header including information for changing the settings of the second cookies for clearing the second cookies.

42. (New): A method of logging a computer system user out of affiliated servers comprising steps of:

providing a first cookie to a browser being used by the user, the first cookie for maintaining a list of affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following an authentication of the user to visit sites on the affiliated servers, wherein as the user visits sites on the affiliated servers following the

authentication, second cookies containing data associated with the affiliated servers having sites visited are stored by the browser;

selecting, by the user, a single logout link, wherein the logout link is contained on any site that the user has visited on the affiliated servers following the authentication;

generating a plurality of image requests based on the list of affiliated servers, each image request corresponding to one of the affiliated servers listed in the list of affiliated servers;

directing each image request to a URL hosted by a corresponding affiliated server that causes the affiliated server receiving the image request to send an image and cookie setting information to the browser, wherein the cookie setting information is used for changing settings of the cookies to cause the cookies to be expired by the browser; and

logging the user out of the affiliated servers having sites visited by the user following the authentication by selection of the single logout link, wherein the second cookies are expired from the browser.